

RADIOGRAPHIC POSITIONING AND RELATED ANATOMY. By Isadore Meschan. (£14.95.) Philadelphia, London, Toronto: Saunders and Eastbourne: Holt-Saunders. 1978.

THIS is yet another excellent book by Professor Meschan. Although primarily for the student radiographer, it is possibly the best reference book for the trainee radiologist or doctor, working in an accident and emergency department, to learn radiological anatomy and to have at hand a book, of reasonable size, which is easily used for reference should he have any doubt regarding either the quality or the diagnosis of a film.

The content is comprehensive, including all the major systems and a chapter on computed tomography. The quality of the line diagrams is exceptionally good and, if we must enter a minor caveat, it would be that the illustrations of the X-rays are not always of the same high standard and are, in some cases, too small. The short paragraphs on each page referring to practical points of interest have the merit of being complete and accurate and succinct.

There are many larger volumes on this subject, including one by Professor Meschan himself, from which many of the illustrations are drawn, but this small book represents exceedingly good value for money, and it would be entirely adequate for most practical purposes. It can be strongly recommended as being interesting and enjoyable.

E.M.McI,

FIRST YEAR PHYSICS FOR RADIOGRAPHERS. By Hay and Hughes, Second Edition. (Pp 271; figs. 109. £3.95). London: Bailliere Tindall, 197 .

THIS small book can be recommended for first-year trainees in radiology as an easily read, but necessarily superficial, course in physics. Paragraphs are well laid out, diagrams are simple to understand and clearly explained, and there is a good cross-reference system. Aspects appear to be governed by a "need to know" philosophy, and the actual technical working of the apparatus is not explained although its purpose is outlined.

One could strongly recommend this book for revision prior to Primary Fellowship, but it would not replace the more detailed textbooks available.

E.M.McI.

PRICE'S TEXTBOOK OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. Edited by Sir Bodley Scott (Pp 1495. £25.00). Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1978.

THE twelfth edition of this classic textbook has more than twice as many contributors as the last — 79 as against 34. Fortunately, updating has been achieved without quite doubling the size of the book but, nevertheless, this now runs to almost 1500 pages. With so many contributors, it is inevitable that the material is presented a little unevenly and, because of the length of time such a tome takes to be produced and printed, a few of the sections tend to be already out of date.

Nevertheless, as originally indicated by Dr. Frederick Price in the first edition of this textbook, the intention is to present a comprehensive survey of modern medicine. This edition certainly reflects once again contemporary practice in the United Kingdom and continues to provide practitioners and students of medicine with a useful work of reference. Considering the mass of information contained in the book, the price of £25.00 is very reasonable.

J.V-O.